

Johnson Hardwood Coffee House

SPC RIGID CORE PLANK FLOORING INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

ALWAYS CHECK www.johnsonhardwood.com FOR THE LATEST INSTALLATION, WARRANTY AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSTALLER TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST CURRENT DOCUMENTS ARE USED DURING INSTALLATION OF JOHNSON HARDWOOD FLOORING PRODUCTS.

General Guidelines

1. The space where flooring is to be installed shall be fully enclosed and the permanent HVAC system shall be operational at 55°– 85° Fahrenheit (18° to 26° Celsius) for 5 days before installation, during installation and for the life of the installation. Note: Maintaining an optimum temperature of 70° F and relative humidity of 35 – 55% is highly recommended. Avoid dramatic and large temperature increases.
2. Johnson Hardwood recommends acclimation of our Coffee House series for 24 hours prior to installation to ensure the product is at equilibrium with the installation environment.
3. Coffee House floating floors can withstand temperature fluctuations as low as -25°F and as high as 155°F for short periods of time, but as a rule, the flooring should be protected from direct sunlight and not exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods of time by use of blinds, drapes or suitable window coverings or be in use in areas of large amounts of direct sunlight exposure.
4. Doorways and archways 6 feet or less in width must have a suitable “T” molding installed as control joint to allow for normal product movement between rooms. A minimum of 5/16” gap is to be allowed on either side of the installed track for the molding.
5. “IMPORTANT” follow installation illustration guidelines which are located on the pages 6 and 7 of these guidelines.
6. This product cannot be installed with full spread adhesives.
7. Coffee House floating floors are designed to be installed as a “floating” floor. Do not secure individual planks to the subfloor with mechanical fasteners or adhesives. Always undercut all door jambs. Do not install cabinets or kitchen islands on top of Coffee House floating floors.
8. Use of a small, soft bristle brush to clean the joints prior to locking will ensure that there is no debris which will cause stress or failure of the joint after interlocking the pieces together.
9. Use care when installing wall moldings and transition strips to not fasten through flooring planks, as this can cause impingement of the floor, which can/will cause the floor to buckle and/or separate. In addition, do not apply caulking between the bottom of the base board and/or shoe trim molding and the surface of the floor, as this can result in buckling and/or separating of the planks due to a buildup of compression, and/or contraction related stresses.
10. The flooring planks are best cut in the following ways: a VCT or laminate cutter; a Sabre saw with a fine-tooth wood cutting blade; a 12” power miter saw with a shallow or negative kerf blade, similar or equal to a plastic cutting blade. As for rip cutting, use a table saw with a cutting blade diameter of 10 to 12”. Note: The cutting teeth of the blade should be comprised of carbide and should have a minimum of 90 cutting teeth.

SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

Approved Substrates

The following are approved substrates for installation of Johnson Hardwood Coffee House flooring. See the next section for proper testing and substrate preparation prior to installing your Johnson Hardwood floorcovering.

- **All substrates regardless of composition must be smooth and flat to within 3/16” (4.75mm) or achieve an “F32” rating by use of mechanical grinding/sanding or suitable Portland cement-based patching and leveling compounds.**

- APA registered underlayment, sanded face exterior grade with minimum rating of C-C plugged face.
- APA registered exterior grade plywood sanded face C-C plugged, sanded face or better.
- Single layer Sturd-I-Floor rated panels (minimum 23/32" thickness) with sanded face.
- APA rated OSB or Particle Board, 3/4" minimum thickness if single layer. Must be properly fastened, free of moisture and visible defects. Ensure proper gapping at seams and no ledging exists.
- Properly prepared and well bonded existing resilient floor covering.
- Cement Terrazzo, Epoxy terrazzo, ceramic tile, marble – must be properly prepared; all grouts are patched with appropriate patching compounds or leveler.
- Certain metal floors – all gaps are patched with appropriate patching compounds or leveler.
- Old adhesive residue- must be properly prepared with embossing leveler.
- Radiant heated floors where heat does not exceed 85°F (29°C).

The following are not approved substrates for installing Coffee House flooring:

- Foam, rubber, cork or other soft underlay pad
- Rubber, cork or asphalt tiles
- Textured or cushion backed resilient flooring
- "Sleeper" floor systems
- Plywood floors that have been installed directly over a concrete slab
- Luan and mahogany-type plywood panels
- Masonite™ or other hardboard underlayment
- CCA (pressure treated), oil treated or other coated plywood
- CDX or other plywood with knots or open defects
- Underlayment made of pine or other soft woods
- Hardwood flooring
- Paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, mold, mildew, and other foreign materials that might prevent loose-lay planks and tiles from natural movement
- Other uneven or unstable substrates.

Substrate Preparation

All substrates must be properly prepared and tested according to the following guidelines.

1. Concrete Subfloors

While Johnson Hardwood Coffee House flooring is waterproof and not susceptible to damage from moisture, it is not a moisture barrier. Excessive subfloor moisture is an ideal breeding ground for mold, mildew and fungus-all of which can contribute to an unhealthy indoor living environment. It is still a good idea to make sure the concrete is cured and tested for moisture. Use of a suitable vapor barrier (6 mil polyethylene film) is highly recommended.

- a. Concrete slab construction shall be in accordance to industry standards for specification related to concrete mix design, curing methods and drying times to prevent moisture problems.
- b. On-grade and below-grade slabs should be installed with a suitable vapor retarder directly underneath the concrete slab.
- c. New concrete shall be properly cured and dried prior to the installation of floor covering. Curing agents, surface hardeners and other membranes or compounds shall be mechanically removed immediately after initial cure to allow the slab to properly dry before installation. Approximately 30 days per 1" of slab thickness.
- d. Concrete substrates should be properly prepared according to ASTM F710-11, *Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring*.

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- e. All concrete substrates, regardless of grade or age of slab, must be properly tested using one of the methods outlined below for warranty to apply. Acceptable test method is the ASTM F 2170 In Situ Relative Humidity. Testing shall be conducted according to the relevant ASTM documentation and instructions of the manufacturer of the testing equipment. Consult Johnson Hardwood Technical support for RH values greater than 80%.
- f. Concrete Alkalinity / pH Test shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM standards. Acceptable level of pH in the substrate is 7.

2. Wood Subfloors

- a. All wood substrates shall be prepared according to ASTM F1482-04 *Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring*.
- b. All wood panels for use under Johnson Hardwood Coffee House flooring must be smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of deflection.
- c. A combination of wood subfloor and panel underlayment construction shall be a minimum of 1" in total thickness.
- d. There shall be at least 18" of well-ventilated air space (i.e., 1 ½ vents per each 100 SF of crawl space area) beneath all wood subfloors. Crawl spaces shall be insulated and protected by a suitable vapor barrier consisting of 6 mil "black" polyethylene sheeting overlapping the seams a minimum of 12" followed by sealing the seams completely using 3" wide clear packing tape. Note: Make sure to run the poly sheeting a minimum of 4 to 6" up the stem walls.
- e. Wood subfloors installed directly on concrete or over "sleeper" joist systems are not acceptable for use under Johnson Hardwood (Coffee House) Flooring.
- f. Panels designed as suitable underlayment shall be at a minimum ¼" in thickness, dimensionally stable, fully sanded face to eliminate grain texture or show through and have a written manufacturer's warranty and installation instructions.
- g. Panels shall be installed according to manufacturer's instructions regarding stapling pattern, sanding and filling of joints, and acclimation to installed environment.
- h. Johnson Hardwood will not cover or accept responsibility for joint telegraphing, either as a "ridge" or "valley"; grain or texture telegraphing; discoloration of finished flooring due to materials used for filling of voids and defects in the face of the underlayment
- i. Unacceptable substrates shall be covered using a ¼" or thicker panel underlayment recommended for commercial use. Follow underlayment manufacturer's installation instructions fully.

3. Gypsum and Lightweight Cellular Concrete Substrates

Gypsum and lightweight concrete subfloors and substrates should be in accordance with the listed standards.

- a. Gypsum surfaces shall be in accordance with and properly prepared according to the appropriate ASTM specifications as listed in the above Reference Section.
- b. Conduct a surface porosity test to ensure that the surface is properly sealed. If the water is quickly absorbed stop the installation and contact Johnson Hardwood Technical Services at 1-800-910-3047 or tech@johnsonhardwood.com.
- c. Check moisture content of the gypsum substrate via the appropriate method according to the ASTM Standards listed above. Moisture content of the subfloor/substrate shall not exceed the adhesive requirements or 75% RH or 3 lbs./1,000 sq ft/24 hrs. MVER. When using the D4263 Test Method no discoloration of the surface should be found.

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- d. All patching compounds shall be recommended for use with gypsum, gypcrete or light weight cellular concrete surfaces by the patching compound manufacturer. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding mixing, use and application.
4. Existing resilient flooring must be single layer only, be firmly bonded to the substrate, flat and smooth with no curling edges or loose seams. Must not be of a cushion back, loose-lay, or perimeter bonded floor.
5. Old Adhesives
- a. Adhesive residue shall be properly prepared prior to the installation of Johnson Hardwood Coffee House Flooring. It is recommended that mechanical scraping or grinding be used as a primary means of removing old adhesive residue.
 - b. Residues include, but are not limited to carpet, vinyl, VCT, and or wood flooring adhesives.
 - c. Black cutback/asphalt adhesives shall be scraped by hand to remove any loose patches, trowel ridges and puddles so that only a thin residue layer remains. This layer shall then be properly covered using a Portland based patching compound properly mixed with the manufacturer's recommended latex/acrylic additive. **NOTE: SEE THE BELOW WARNING!!!**
 - d. Do not use chemical adhesive removers.

WARNING!

DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, BEADBLAST, SHOTBLAST OR USE ANY OTHER MECHANICAL MEANS TO PULVERIZE EXISTING TILE FLOORING, BACKING , LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUT-BACK" OR ANY OTHER ADHESIVES. THESE PRODUCTS MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS FIBERS AND/OR CRYSTALLINE SILICA. AVOID CREATING DUST. INHALATION OF SUCH DUST IS A CANCER AND RESPIRATORY TRACT HAZARD. SMOKING BY INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS FIBERS GREATLY INCREASES THE RISK OF SERIOUS BODILY HARM. UNLESS POSITIVELY CERTAIN THAT THE PRODUCT IS A NON-ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL, YOU MUST PRESUME IT CONTAINS ASBESTOS. REGULATIONS MAY REQUIRE THAT THE MATERIAL BE TESTED TO DETERMINE ASBESTOS CONTENT.

6. Other substrates
- a. Cement terrazzo, epoxy terrazzo flooring, stained or painted concrete and metal floors maybe suitable for installation. However, most will need to be prepared with a suitable Portland-based cement patching compound, see manufacturer's recommendations for use and preparation of subfloor.
 - b. Ceramic, porcelain, marble and granite tiles are suitable and must be properly bonded with intact grout joints and free of cracks or loose tiles. Surface of tile and grout joints should be free from sealers, coatings, dirt and contaminants. Properly prepare the surface of tiles by grinding any high areas and using a suitable Portland-based leveling compound and primer to fill in all low areas. Follow leveling compound manufacturer's recommendations for surface preparation and application of product.
 - c. The following are not suitable substrates for installation of Johnson Hardwood (Coffee House) Flooring: rubber, cork, or asphalt tiles; and any other material covered in the sections above and listed as unsuitable.
 - d. Unsuitable substrates should be covered with an approved 1/4" wood underlayment or suitable Portland-based cement leveler or patching compound. Always follow the manufacturer's recommended practices when covering an existing substrate.

Installation and Layout

Coffee House floating flooring is designed with a Valinge 2G tongue and groove inner-locking mechanism. Please refer to and follow the installation process and procedures as illustrated in the installation guide-lines.

Layout

- a. Install flooring perpendicular to direct sunlight sources, including large windows, doors, etc.
- b. It is important to balance the layout of the plank format. Proper planning and layout will prevent narrow piece widths at wall junctures. Determine layout to prevent having less than a half the width or very short length pieces.
- c. Determine the center of the room by measuring each end wall and marking the center of the wall. Chalk a line across the points and measure to determine the center point. At a right angle to the chalk line, using the center point, chalk another line out to the other walls.
- d. Be sure to allow for a 5/16" spacing along all walls when determining your starting plank width. On rooms greater than 2,500 ft² (232 m²) or runs longer than 50 feet (15 meters) control joints with a suitable T-molding must be installed with a minimum of 5/16" (8mm) gap between the sides of the T-molding.
- e. Dry lay a section of plank from the center line to one wall to determine that the pattern is centered and fit. Border cuts should be measured and should not be less than half the width of a plank. If the cut row falls under these conditions, adjust the first row at the center line to make the centerline match the centerline of the row of planks.

Three Season Rooms

Coffee House Series is an ideal choice for installations in 3 season environments where the ambient conditions may not be controlled for extended periods of time. In fact, Coffee House can withstand temperatures as low as -25°F and highs up to 155° F for short periods of time. That being said, it is important to note that prior to beginning the installation, the flooring must be properly acclimated to a controlled environment (i.e., 55°F to 85°F) for a minimum of 24 hrs. Failure to comply with these requirements can/will result in loss of warranty coverage.

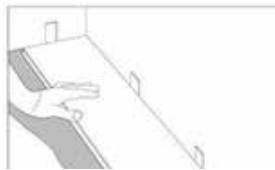
After Installation

1. Be sure planks are set, flat and have tight edges.
2. In the event that the plank flooring is not the last portion of the construction project, the floor must be protected from construction traffic and damage. Utilize a reinforced fiber protective board or a heavy Kraft paper (min. 60 lbs.) and cover the floor. Note: When taping the paper together, NEVER tape directly to the floors surface, but rather tape the paper to the paper using 3M 2080 Blue masking tape.
3. Initial maintenance
 - a. Wait 5 days after installation is completed and thoroughly clean the floor using a neutral pH cleaner.
 - b. If necessary, a slow (175 rpm) buffer can be utilized with a white, non-abrasive pad to remove heavier deposits.
 - c. Rinse the floor thoroughly and allow to dry.
4. Daily and weekly maintenance
 - a. Sweep, vacuum or dust mop the floor as needed to remove dust loose dirt and grit. In high traffic areas this may be a daily or twice daily procedure. Use only vacuums that do not have bristle beater bars or metal heads.
 - b. Clean liquid spills immediately to prevent the possibility of stains, slips or falls.
 - c. Damp mop the floor as needed to remove dirt and stains. Use a neutral pH cleaner and a white pad if needed to remove ground in dirt. Soft bristle brushes can also be used on flooring with embossed surfaces.

5. Preventative steps

- a. Use mats at all entry areas to keep dirt, sand, and water off the floor. Clean the mats on a regular basis. If mats are placed directly on top of the floor, be sure the mats have a non-staining back. Rubber mats are also not recommended over Johnson Hardwood flooring products.
- b. Furniture shall have protective glides of at least 1" in diameter to minimize the chance of indentations or scratching to the surface of the floor. Do not use narrow chair glides! Felt pads are also excellent protection for the floor for furniture that will be frequently moved directly across the floor.
- c. Do not move heavy furniture, appliances or fixtures directly across the floor. Use protective boards or appropriate furniture movers designed for use over hard and/or resilient surface flooring.
- d. Protect the floor from direct sunlight by using appropriate window coverings.
- e. Use chair mats at desks to protect the floor from damage due to chair legs or casters.
- f. Periodically clean caster wheels and check for wheels that may be broken or no longer rotating. Replace damaged wheels immediately.
- g. Avoid use of metal or razor scrapers to remove dirt, residues or other marks from flooring. This will damage the protective wear layer of the flooring.

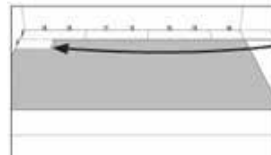
INSTALLATION:



Step 1: Begin installation working from left to right. Insert 1/4" wide spacers at ends and edges where planks meet wall.



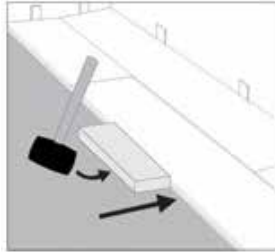
Step 2: Lock short end of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an approximate 30 degree angle and drop into place. Continue this process throughout the installation.



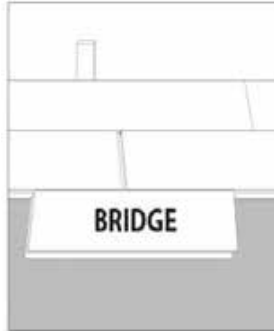
Step 3: Use the remaining plank from your cut piece to begin the next row (you will repeat this process throughout the installation). Note: It is recommended that you space end-joints by minimum of 8 inches.



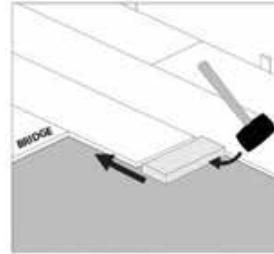
Step 4: Lock long edge of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an approximate 15 degree angle and drop into place. Next slide toward end of previously installed plank until the tongue touches the groove.



Step 5: **IMPORTANT!** Use a hammer and tapping block to tap the long edge of the plank to ensure a tight fit. Note: Tapping block should be a minimum of 10" to 12" long. It is important to note that any/all gapping can/will compromise locking system.



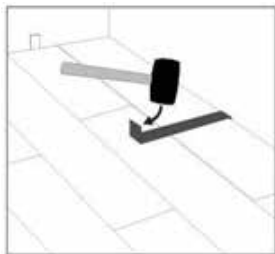
Step 6: Attach a scrap piece of floor to bridge the gap between ends of planks.



Step 7: Tap end of plank with hammer and tapping block to lock ends of planks together. Remove support bridge and continue with this method until you have completed installing the row. Note: **BE SURE TO TAP ON EDGE OF VINYL SO AS NOT TO DAMAGE LOCKING PROFILE.**

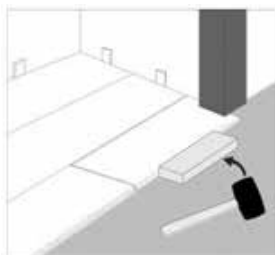


Step 8: Use hammer and pull bar to lock final piece in row. Insert spacer at end of row. Continue installation to final row.



Step 9: Use hammer and pull bar to lock long edges of planks on final row.

INSTALLING UNDER DOOR JAMBS:



Step 1: Undercut door jamb to provide space to allow plank to slide freely. Tap long edge with hammer and tapping block to lock long edge.



Step 2: Use hammer and pull bar to draw in and lock short end of plank.

MAINTAINING AND PROTECTING YOUR FLOOR

- As with any fine floor covering, care should be taken when moving heavy furniture or appliances back into the room. Use wood panels to protect the floor when rolling heavy appliances back into place.
- Proper floor protectors should be used under any furniture which is regularly moved, or which is heavy and may dent the floor.
- Non staining, non-rubber backed protective mats should be used under rolling office chairs, and any rolling furniture/carts need to have wide, flat wheels.
- Protective walk off mats should be used at all exterior doors.
- Oil and petroleum-based driveways can stain vinyl floors. Do not track petroleum-based products onto a Coffee House floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove dirt/grit. Do not use a vacuum with a revolving beater bar.
- Coffee House should be regularly cleaned with a low pH cleaner such as Bona Professional Series Stone, Tile & Laminate Cleaner. Follow manufactures instruction. **Note: Using a cleaner other than a neutral pH cleaner can/will result in irreversible damage to the floors surface, which can/will void ALL applicable warranties.**



FLOOR MUFFLER VS 6 MIL POLY SHEETING AS A CLASS 1 VAPOR DIFFUSION RETARDER

Dear Customers:

Many of you have asked whether you can substitute Floor Muffler as a stand-alone CLASS 1 Vapor Barrier (aka Vapor Diffusion Retarder) over the surface of a concrete slab in lieu of 6 mil poly sheeting which is what we currently require as a stand-alone CLASS 1 Vapor Barrier (aka Vapor Diffusion Retarder) beneath Johnson's Luxury Vinyl Plank Flooring and/or Johnson's High Performance Laminate Flooring? My response to this question is usually No, as 6 mil poly sheeting has a lower PERM rating than Floor Muffler. **Please see below for further information pertaining to this question:**

After speaking with Ricardo Gonzelez (COO) of Diversified Industries, makers of the Floor Muffler product line, here is what he had to say regarding the placement of Floor Muffler products beneath our LVP/SPC and/or laminate type of flooring products (**Note: The following answers are in direct response to customers who want to use Floor Muffler underlayment either as an additional cushion beneath the floor or use Floor Muffler underlayment as a vapor barrier, in lieu of 6 mil poly sheeting when said type of flooring is being installed over the surface of a concrete slab**):

LVP/SPC / HPF: Taking into consideration that Johnson's LVP/SPC / HPF flooring comes with an attached 1.5 mm (thick) underlayment pad; if/when a customer wants to incorporate the use of an additional underlayment pad beneath said flooring types, Diversified Industries limits the choice of pads to their Encore product, which consists of closed cell high density foam that measures 1.1 mm (thick) which qualifies as a CLASS 1 Vapor Barrier (aka Vapor Diffusion Retarder) at 0.108 PERMS, which is based on the Water Vapor Transmission Rate (WVTR) as per ASTM E96 (**Note:** Diversified Industries placed a limit as to the maximum amount of Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER) rate of 6 lbs. / 1,000 / 24 hrs. based on ASTM F1869-22 for their Encore underlayment pad).

Note: According to Diversified Industries, they don't recommend the use of a thicker pad (i.e., 2 mm thick) with flooring that already has an attached pad as the combined thickness can result in compression stress damage to the locking mechanism, which can/will result in failure of the locking system, which can/will result in fractures, cracking, splitting, and/or edge joint ledging due to breakage.

Note: When installing over the surface of a concrete slab, the use of 6 mil poly sheeting as a vapor barrier (aka Vapor Diffusion Retarder) is required, as it offers better protection against Moisture Vapors transmitting through the surface of a concrete slab (PERM rating of 6 mil poly sheeting is 0.06 whereas Floor Muffler Encor has a PERM rating of 0.108). Bottom line is, the lower the PERM rating the better protection against Moisture Vapor Transmission; therefore, 6 mil poly sheeting should always be placed over the surface of a concrete slab (prior to the placement of Floor Muffler Encor product) and should always be considered the primary defense against Moisture Vapor Transmission.

Note: For moisture transmission related claims where it's discovered that 6 mil poly sheeting was Not utilized as required in combination with Floor Muffler Encor, and it is determined that Floor Muffler Encor was used as a stand-alone vapor barrier, Johnson's Claim Dept. will direct the claimant to Diversified Industries who handles claims involving their specific brand of products.

Steve Marley
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Johnson Premium Hardwood